

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2008. Applicant hereby requests a three month extension of time for filing this response. Authorization is given to charge the appropriate fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-8 were pending. In the Office Action, objections were raised to the specification and abstract. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The objections and rejections are discussed in more detail below.

I. Objections to the Specification and Abstract

An objection was raised to the specification for failing to include a sentence that identifies the application as a national stage application. Applicant notes that the relevant identification information is properly included in the application data sheet filed with the application, and therefore should not be additionally required in the specification. Nevertheless, an amendment to include the related application in the specification is included herein. The abstract was objected to for a typographical error. An appropriate correction is made herein, and withdrawal of the objections is thus respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Appropriate amendments are made herein to the claims to replace the term "damp" with "removal" (see for example page 1, lines 7-8 of the application for support for this amendment), and withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Rejections based upon art

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,361,754 to Peter-Hoblyn et al. (hereafter "*Peter-Hoblyn*") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0146441 to Lang et al. ("*Lang*"). Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over

these references.

Contrary to what is stated on page 4, of the Office Action, *Lang* neither discloses nor suggests the storage (accumulation) of ammonia in gaseous state, as recited in present claim 1. As clearly stated at paragraph [0049] of *Lang*, the ammonia present in the product gas stream (6) at the outlet from (5) is separated from the other constituents in an ammonia washer (7) and the ammonia solution being formed is temporarily stored in several storage containers (8a, 8b, 8c). Thus, storage of ammonia in liquid solution is disclosed in *Lang* and not of ammonia in gaseous state as claimed in claim 1.

In this respect it is noted that the storage medium referred to at page 4, second paragraph of the Office Action is not a storage tank. To the contrary, it is a wash liquid such as water (see, for instance, *Lang*, paragraphs [0049] and [0052]). In paragraph [0023] it is mentioned that the ammonia present in the product gas stream is first separated from the product gas stream and then stored in a storage medium. In paragraph [0028] it is further explained that the reducing agent (ammonia) is dissolved in the storage medium and in paragraphs [0052] and [0027] it is mentioned that water is preferably used as storage medium for ammonia. Therefore, *Lang* clearly discloses and teaches to dissolve gaseous ammonia in a wash liquid (storage medium) such as water. This feature is not present at all in the method of claim 1, which requires the storage of ammonia in gaseous state.

Moreover, *Lang* is not concerned with a method, wherein ammonia is generated in situ by hydrolysis reaction of an aqueous urea solution as it is the case for the method of claim 1. The disclosure and teaching resulting from *Lang* thus makes this document irrelevant for the assessment of the patentability of claim 1.

With respect to *Peter-Hoblyn*, it is noted that the distinguishing feature mentioned in the Office Action as missing from this reference is not the only feature that distinguishes amended claim 1 from this document. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recited that the pressure at which the generated gaseous ammonia is accumulated is between the pressure at which said hydrolysis reaction takes place and the pressure at which it is introduced into the combustion flue gas, and notes that this feature is also missing from *Peter-Hoblyn*. These features (and the related advantages such as that of making it possible to dose the ammonia gas in the exhaust in the

location(s) and in the amount(s) required without at the same time negatively effecting the operating parameters of the hydrolysis reaction) are also not disclosed nor suggested by the other cited document *Lang*.

For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that the subject-matter of new claim 1 is not anticipated by nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art, and is therefore patentable. The dependent claims are also believed allowable because of their dependence upon an allowable base claim, and because of the further features recited.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is thus believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark D. Passler
Registration No. 40,764
Sarah E. Smith
Registration No. 50,488
AKERMAN SENTERFITT
Post Office Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
Telephone: (561) 653-5000